

# Fort Stewart's contracting office starts on-line bidding

By Noelle Phillips  
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FORT STEWART — If you want to do business with the Army, you better get a computer.

This summer, Fort Stewart started a new electronic contracting system. Potential bidders review upcoming projects, submit bids and receive payments through the Internet and computers, said Gwen Strickland, chief of the acquisition division in Fort Stewart's Directorate of Contracting.

The change is a result of the federal government's goal to conduct paperless business by January 2000, Strickland said. And Fort Stewart's contracting office wants local businesses to understand how the electronic bidding process works.

"They need to go to our home page and look for these solicitations rather than going to their mailboxes," she said.

Most of the bid solicitations will involve building construction and renovation projects on the Army post, Strickland said. Examples of upcoming projects include underground wiring, paving, painting and security improvements at the rail head on post.

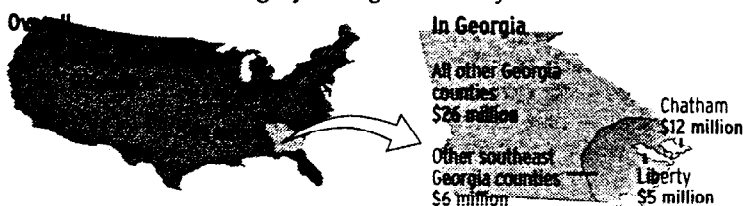
"We're in the busy time of the year trying to solicit for these things before the end of the fiscal year," she said.

With the Web site in place, Fort Stewart no longer mails bid requests or accepts paper bids. Businesses that don't have Internet access can go to libraries or small business centers to check the Fort Stewart Web site. The Web site provides potential bidders with free software, so they can download bid information, drawings and forms, Strickland said.

The electronic bidding system will save Fort Stewart money by cutting

## Who gets Fort Stewart's contracts

*In 1998, Fort Stewart had more than \$75.7 million in contracts in Georgia and other states. Below is a breakdown of in-state contracts and how Georgia fared against out-of-state contractors.*



Source: Fort Stewart Directorate of Contracting Research by Noelle Phillips, graphic by Vita Salvemini/Savannah Morning News

back on paper. It also eliminated four employee positions from the contracting office, said Stephen Kandul, director of contracting. One person retired and three others transferred to another office, he said.

In the past, the office sometimes had bid solicitations four inches thick that had to be copied and mailed, Strickland said.

"When you multiply that by 100 bidders, you have a substantial cost by the time you copy it and mail it to them," she said.

The change in the contracting office is a sign of things to come for companies who do business with the government, Strickland said.

"They're going to have to become computer efficient to do business with the government in the future," she said.

**Military reporter Noelle Phillips can be reached at 652-0366 or e-mail at [phillips@savannahnow.com](mailto:phillips@savannahnow.com)**

## ON THE WEB

The Internet home page for contracting at Fort Stewart is [www.stewart.army.mil/doc/intro.htm](http://www.stewart.army.mil/doc/intro.htm)